

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. In the outstanding Office Action, which was made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presently amended overcome the rejections. In claim 1, lines 3-4, the language "said dosage device being automatically dosing" has been amended to read -- said dosage device being connected to said drink machine and adapted to automatically release a predetermined amount of said cleaning agent--.

The Office Action indicated it is unclear how the spout, storage container and dosage unit relate to the dosage device and to one another. Claim 1 has further been amended to recite -- a storage container for containing a supply of said solid cleaning agent, a dosage unit in communication with the storage container for controlling the rate of release of the solid cleaning agent, and a spout disposed to receive the cleaning agent passing through the dosage unit and to introduce the cleaning agent into a cleaning flow path within the drink machine, and wherein the storage container is protected from the spout. -- It is respectfully submitted that, in claim 1 as-amended, the relationship between and among the spout, storage container, dosage unit, and the dosage device is now clear to those of ordinary skill in the art.

The Office Action additionally indicated that the preamble of claim 1 was not commensurate with the body of claim 1, because "[t]he preamble recites a drinks machine while the body recites only structure to a cleaning arrangement for a drink machine." The preamble of claim 1 has been amended to read -- A drink machine with an entry device for a

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solid cleaning agent, said entry device comprising: --. The amended preamble is respectfully submitted to be commensurate with the body of Claim 1, as amended.

Reference numbers have also been deleted from all claims.

The Examiner's indication that claims 1 through 15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under Section 112, second paragraph, is noted with appreciation.

In light of the foregoing, the prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

This Amendment After Final is accompanied by a Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time, to and including June 1, 2004 (because May 30 falls on a Sunday and May 31 falls on a federal holiday), with a check for the requisite fee of \$420.00. In the event any additional fees are necessary, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

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